THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, as part of regular preservation programmes, the National Archives of India takes a series of measures including air-cleaning, fumigation, deacidification, repairing, lamination, binding and map mounting etc. The National Archives has also drawn up a long term vision plan to augment/supplement the existing system of preservation/conservation of records.

World Heritage Sites

340. SHRI R.P GOENKA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UNESCO has proposed to classify some of the world heritage sites in India, including Hampi in Karnataka, in the "endangered" category; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the specific messages/warnings conveyed by the UN agency and the steps being taken to preserve the integrity, of the archaeological sites by saving them from any physical harm or compromising their unique ambience and scenic surroundings?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Heritage Committee has placed two World Heritage sites-the Group of Monuments at Hampi and the Manas Wild Life Sanctuary-in the endangered category. As far as the archaeological site of Hampi is concerned, it was put in list of danger in 1999 due to construction of a bridge across the river Tungabhadra in the core zone area of the site. Two UNESCO Missions have visited the site and suggested corrective measures. The important suggestions are:

(a) to construct a road by passing the core zone

(b) to prepare a comprehensive site management plan

(c) to include local communities in the development programmes envisaged at the site etc.

The Government of Karnataka has taken steps to construct the new By-pass road by acquiring requisite land and the work is in progress. School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi is entrusted with the work of formulating comprehensive site management plan to address

various issues relating to development and to maintain the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage Site.

Archaeological Survey of India in association with Government of Karnataka is making all. efforts to implement the recommendations and corrective measures suggested by the World Heritage Committee.

Manas Wild Life Sanctuary was put in danger list in 1992. The World Heritage Centre approved a rehabilitation plan and agreed to provide, international assistance. The World Heritage Committee in its 28th session recommended:

(i) to undertake a mission to assess the security situation and ecological conditions

(ii) to begin activities benefiting the site as soon as possible.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has been working with World Heritage Centre, United Nations Foundation and other national and international partner* to raise financing and activate conservation works.

Funds for Bodo Tribal Area Development

341. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fund released for the infrastructure! development in BTAD area of Assam out of 500 crores special financial package as committed in the Bodo Accord, 2003;

(b) the number of projects already started and completed; and

(c) the number of projects obtained necessary approval?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 100 crore has been earmarked under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources during 2004-2005 for projects in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) area of Assam. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has retaind 14 projects/schemes as per for BTC area with an estimated cost of Rs. 154.42 crore for techno-economic examination and sanction as per statement (See below). No funds have been released against any project so far.